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Message Text

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16
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CU-04 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01

OPR-02 SSO-00 DRC-01 /159 W
---------- 077177
R 090902Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8062
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 14669

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CH, PINT, PINS
SUBJECT: UNREST IN PRC

REF:HONG KONG 11146 (NOTAL); TOKYO 14557 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: FRENCH AND GERMAN EMBASSIES TOKYO BOTH RECEIVED CABLES FROM PEKING DESCRIBING UNREST IN PRC AND SPECULATION ON POSSIBLE BREAKDOWN OF "COMPROMISE" APPARENTLY OPERATIVE DURING TENTH CCP CONGRESS. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING SMALL CHINA STUDY GROUP SESSION NOV 8 WITH EMBOFF'S PARTICIPATING, FRENCH EMBASSY SECOND COUNSELLOR JEAN GORY) AND FRG EMBASSY (FIRST SECRETARY HEINZ LANGHAUSER) SAID THEIR EMBASSIES HAD RECEIVED CABLES FROM
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PEKING REPORTING UNREST IN PRC. BOTH HAD REPORTS OF

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STUDENTS' PLASTERING WALLS OF HSING HUA AND PEKING UNIVERSITIES WITH "BIG CHARACTER POSTERS", FAMOUS FROM CULTURAL REVOLUTION DAYS. THEMES INCLUDED ATTACKS ON CONFUCIOUS, LIN PIAO, ETC. COMMON NOW IN PRC PRESS. GORY ALSO SAID CLASSES WERE SUSPENDED AT PEKING U.

2. READING FROM CABLE, GORY SAID FRENCH EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF PRC INTERNAL SITUATION CONCLUDED THAT POLITICAL DISCUSSION CONTINUING, FREQUENTLY INVOLVING OPPOSITION TO POLICIES ASSOCIATED WITH CHOU EN-LAI. SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE SEEMINGLY OPERATIVE DURING CCP TENTH CONGRESS HAS DISAPPEARED. LEADERSHIP SEEMS DESTABLIZED AND STRUGGLE FOR POWER APPEARS TO BE UNDERWAY. ASSESSMENT FOUND IT BEWILDERING THAT PROTAGONISTS OF GOVERNMENT SEEM TO BE IN CONTROL OF PROPAGANDA APPARATUS. REPORT SAID LOCAL LEADERS DID NOT YET SEEM COMMITTED TO DEBATE OR POWER STRUGGLE AND SURMISED THAT THEY ADOPTED WAIT AND SEE ATTITUDE. FOR TIME BEING, LANGHAEUSER SAID FRG EMBASSY HAD ALSO JUST RECEIVED SIMILAR ASSESSMENT.

3. COMMENT: STUDY GROUP CONSENSUS (GROUP ALSO INCLUDES KUNIHIRO, HEAD CHINA DIVISION FONOFF) HELD THAT IT WAS STILL ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE WHETHER DEBATE IN PRC DIRECTED AGAINST CHOU HIMSELF OR HIS POLICIES OR INDEED NEITHER.NEVERTHELESS, UNSETTLED CLIMATE IN PRC DISTURBING TO ALL WHO SEE BILATERAL TIES WITH PRC AND STABILITY OF ASIAN AREA ENHANCED BY CHOU'S LEADERSHIP. SHOESMITH

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